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S-E-C-R-E-T

Project: IP-277

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Research and Reports

Project Initiation Memorandum

18 March 1952

To: D/M

From: D/R

Subject: Sugar Beet Production in the USSR

Statement of Project

Origin: OSI

Responsible Division: D/M
Responsible Branch: M/AG
25X1A Analyst in Charge: [redacted]

Problem: To determine the sugar beet production in the USSR for the latest available year.

Scope: This project will include a study of acreage and yield on an oblast level and an estimate of total production. It will provide a background for an OSI paper on sugar beets and sugar beet diseases in the USSR, and will be incorporated as an appendix to the OSI project.

Draft Due in D/R: 23 April 1952

Due in OSI: 1 May 1952

Form of Draft: Memorandum (Original and 1 copy, triple-spaced)

Classification: Secret

S-E-C-R-E-T

1938 Sugar Beet Acreage and Production Adjusted to 1951 Boundaries

Republic, ASSR, Kray, and Oblast (1951)		Acreage 1/ (000 Ha.)	Yield 2/ (c/Ha.)	Production 3/ (000 MT.)
USSR	(TOTAL)	1,288.5	104.2	13,430.0
RSFSR	(TOTAL)	358.5	97.4	3,491.0
Altay Kray		27.1	76.8	208.1
Bashkir ASSR		0.8	89.3 4/	7.1
Voronezh Oblast		75.3	101.0	760.5
Krasnodar Kray		19.0	114.5	217.6
Kursk Oblast		162.8	101.0	1,644.3
Orel Oblast		8.2	77.2	63.3
Primorskiy Kray		4.5	76.9	34.6
Ryazan' Oblast		4.1	86.6	35.5
Saratov Oblast		3.7	40.0 5/	14.8
Tambov Oblast		25.8	101.0	260.6
Tula Oblast		4.9	70.2	34.4
Bryansk Oblast		5.5	76.7	42.2
Penza Oblast		14.5	62.9 6/	91.2
Kaliningrad Oblast		2.3	333.9 7/	[illegible]
UKRAINIAN SSR	(TOTAL)	858.7	102.4	8,793.5
Vinnitsa Oblast		176.9	99.6	1,761.9
Voroshilovgrad Oblast		2.0	99.6	19.9
Dnepropetrovsk Oblast		2.5	99.6	24.9
Zhitomir Oblast		39.3	99.6	391.4
Kamenets-Podol'sk Oblast		87.3	99.6	869.5
Kiev Oblast		160.8	99.6	1,601.2
Nikolayev Oblast		1.8	99.6	17.9
Odessa Oblast		27.6	99.6	274.8
Poltava Oblast		101.3	99.6	1,008.7
Khar'kov Oblast		68.2	99.6	679.1
Chernigov Oblast		27.5	99.6	273.9
Kirovograd Oblast		51.4	99.6	511.9
Sumy Oblast		84.0	99.6	836.6
Chernovtsy Oblast		8.9	193.1 8/	171.9
Drogobych Oblast		1.6	187.2	30.0
Stanislav Oblast		3.6	187.2	67.4
L'vov Oblast		2.0	187.2	37.4
Ternopol' Oblast		3.9	172.5	67.3
Volyn' Oblast		1.2	188.3	22.6
Rovno Oblast		6.9	177.5	122.4
MOLDAVIAN SSR	(TOTAL)	13.9	193.1	267.8
LITHUANIAN SSR	(TOTAL)	8.5	160.0	136.0
LATVIAN SSR	(TOTAL)	14.2	165.3	234.7
GEORGIAN SSR	(TOTAL)	5.5	89.0 9/	48.9
ARMENIAN SSR	(TOTAL)	1.0	89.0	8.9
KAZAKH SSR	(TOTAL)	14.2	159.0 10/	225.8
Alma-Ata Oblast		1.4	159.0	22.3
Taldy-Kurgan Oblast		3.8	159.0	60.4
East Kazakhstan Oblast		0.5	159.0	8.0
South Kazakhstan Oblast		8.5	159.0	135.1
KIRGIZ SSR	(TOTAL)	14.0	159.0	222.6

[illegible] attached sheets for footnotes.

1/ Sugar beet acreages for 1938, for territory within the 1938 boundaries of the USSR, were taken from Posevnye Ploshchadi SSSR v 1938 g. (Sown Acreage of the USSR in 1938), Moscow: Gosplanizdat, 1939. For territory acquired since 1938 sugar beet acreages were taken from data prepared by OFAR, US Department of Agriculture from official publications of the countries losing territory to the USSR (Germany, Poland, Rumania, Latvia, Czechoslovakia, and Lithuania). Acreage data for 1938 are the latest reliable figures to be published by the USSR and with few minor exceptions are considered to be sufficiently representative of the present-day distribution of sugar beet production in the USSR as to warrant their use in this project.

2/ Yield figures for most of the area within the 1938 boundaries of the USSR are 1928-32 averages which are considered to be the latest accurate published figures. Most of the later figures are distorted by the "biological yield" concept of reporting production. In certain cases, as indicated by footnotes, other years were used where the 1928-32 figures were not available. All yield data, except that for territory outside the 1938 boundaries of the USSR, are from Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo SSSR, Yezhegodnik, 1935 (Agriculture of the USSR, Yearbook, 1935), Moscow: "Sel'khozgiz", 1936. Yield data for newly acquired areas are from official data of the countries concerned. The yield data for this earlier period were adjusted to 1938 boundaries through the use of maps of the same scale.

3/ Production figures were derived from the acreage and yield data in most cases. After determining the production of sugar beets according to 1938 boundaries, adjustments were made to agree with 1951 boundaries. In order to accomplish this, maps for the 1937-41 period and for 1951, at the same scale, were used to determine locations of boundary shifts. Acreage shifts from one oblast to another were determined by the use of administrative-territorial handbooks where possible.

4/ The two-year average (1933-34) was used in the absence of a 1928-32 average yield figure.

5/ An average of the Former Lower Volga Kray yield figure for 1933 and the Saratov Kray yield figure for 1934 was used in the absence of other data. The two figures used cover the same area as present-day Saratov Oblast.

6/ The Former Middle Volga Kray two-year average yield for 1933-34 was applied to 82 percent of Penza's sugar beet acreage and the Former Central Chernozem Region 1928-32 average yield was applied to the remainder (18 percent).

7/ Kaliningrad (formerly northern East Prussia) shows an exceedingly high yield as compared to prewar USSR. Compared to Germany proper and adjacent Poland, however, this figure is not surprising. The great disparity between this yield figure and that of the USSR in general is due mainly to the highly intensified use of fertilizers by the Germans and in part to more favorable climatic conditions in the spring. However, under Soviet conditions, with less intensive agricultural practices and fertilization, the yield in this area has undoubtedly decreased appreciably.

8/ In pre-World War II Poland and Rumania there was a more liberal use of fertilizer in sugar beet cultivation, which is reflected in yields much higher than those in adjacent prewar Soviet areas.

9/ A two-year (1933-34) average yield for Transcaucasia was used in the absence of a 1928-32 figure.

10/ The relatively high yield figure for Central Asia is the result of irrigation practices in sugar beet cultivation.

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